

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A Computer-computer system for managing composite documents in multi-user mode, including:

one or more server devices including:

[[-]] a processor device for processing document data-processing tool;

[[-]] a document data display manager[,] coupled to a display screen; and

[[-]] a document user rights manager coupled to the processor device, characterized in that:

wherein, the processing tool includes processor device is configured to:

[[*]] generate an object model, including a plurality of classes, structured to include a content pointer, a level indicator, an access -methodmechanism, a validation methodmechanism, and a validation indicator, and

[[*]] a document operator capable of creating and maintaining create and maintain in a data store a document in the form of a set of object model class instances,

[[-]] wherein, the display manager being arranged to enable the joint-is configured to concurrently display on the display screen [[of]] a tree diagram of the document and a plurality of zones with tabs for the document, each level of the tree diagram being identified defined according to a level indicator[[s]], each of and display/input the plurality of zones with tabs, corresponding to a node of the tree diagram and further providing [[the]] contents of the class instances existing in at least part the corresponding node of the tree diagram,

[[-]] wherein, the processing tool-processor is configured to only authorizing-authorize access to the[[a]] document according to [[the]] access rights of [[the]] a user concerned, such as determined by the document user rights manager,

[[-]] wherein, if the document is accessed, the processor device is configured to in the event of access, the processing tool only authorizing-authorize validation of a zone displayed for the

document according to [[the]] validation rights of the user concerned for the document, as determined by the document user rights manager,

[[-]] wherein, the display manager additionally including includes a first mechanism capable of jointly for concurrently modifying the display on the display screen of [[a]] the zone and the display of the [[a]] corresponding node in the tree diagram according to status of the validation [[status]] of the zone, and a second mechanism for raising, when all of the nodes at a level of a current node associated with a current zone are validated based on the level indicators of the nodes of the tree diagram, a validated status for a node of the tree display, to a level higher than the level of the current node capable, judging by the level indicators, of causing a validated status to rise to a higher level node when all of the nodes of one level are validated,

[[-]] whereas, when [[the]] a head of the tree diagram is validated, the processing tool authorizes the processor device is configured to authorize signature of the entire for an entirety of the document by a user having corresponding signature rights, the processor device being further configured to transmit the signed document to a computer device for display thereon.

2. (Original) Computer system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the tree diagram includes levels arranged in a descending hierarchy, in particular levels such as document, chapter and section, each level comprising one or more nodes.

3. (Previously Presented) Computer system according to Claim 1, characterized in that a tabbed display/input zone corresponds to a node at a level.

4. (Previously Presented) Computer system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the document user rights manager determines the user rights for a given document based on the instantiation of a method of reading the rights of that user.

5. (Previously Presented) Computer system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the user rights for a document include at least some of the following rights: the right to display, print, search, preview, create, duplicate, link, delete, export, write, validate, discuss, publish, enter, and sign a document.

6. (Previously Presented) Computer system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the document user rights manager determines the user role data for a given document based

on the instantiation of a method of reading the role of that user, the role data being defined by a set of rights.

7. (Previously Presented) Computer system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the user role data for a document includes at least some of the roles such as:

- reader, defining at least the rights to display, print, search, preview, and export a document for a user,
- author, defining at least the rights to create, duplicate, delete, and revise a document for a user,
- editor, defining at least the rights to write, validate, and discuss a document for a user,
- publisher, defining at least the right to publish a document for a user,
- contributor, defining at least the rights to validate and discuss a document for a user,
- signatory, defining at least the right to sign a document for a user.

8. (Previously Presented) Computer system according to Claim 1, characterized in that:

- the first mechanism is capable of changing the node color according to the validation status of the corresponding zone,
- the second mechanism is capable, when the color of all the nodes at a level indicates that they are validated, of changing the node color of the higher level to indicate validation thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) Computer system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the document user rights manager is designed to manage rights defined for a group of documents and/or for a set of users.

10. (Previously Presented) Computer system according to Claim 1, characterized in that the display manager includes a third mechanism capable, based on the validation of a higher node, of propagating the node validation to lower levels.